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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

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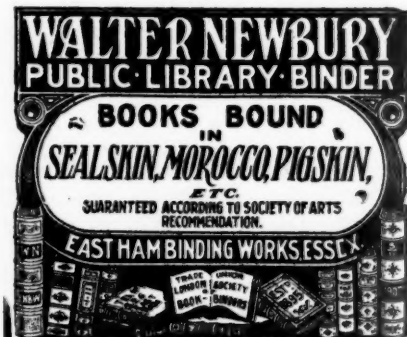
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The Annual Meeting.—From the report of the proceedings it will be gathered that the 25th Annual Meeting was wholly successful. The attendance on the first day was gratifying, notwithstanding the fact that the School of Librarianship was holding an examination at the same hour with about 70 candidates sitting. Mr. Lewis' address was a notable one for the quality of its matter, and for the great charm in the manner of the delivery. It was a privilege for this Association to have been permitted the opportunity of offering to Mr. Lewis the first public Professional recognition of his valued services in the passage of the new Act through Parliament, while Mr. Lewis' great courtesy to the members was very highly appreciated. There was an encouraging display of enthusiasm at the Business Meeting, and the discussions on the resolutions were interesting and well maintained. It was a pity so little time was left for the social arrangements, as several would have been glad to have heard Miss Baker sing again, as well as to have listened to another of Mr. Parsons' delicious Yorkshire narratives, but it was unavoidable. The visit to the Guildhall was very pleasant, and all present thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Kettle's general manner in conducting the party through various departments of the City Corporation's headquarters.

The completion of a quarter of a century's work is an event worth noting, and it will be generally agreed that the 25th Annual Meeting was worthy of the occasion.

The Holiday Season.—We trust that all our readers will have a very enjoyable holiday, and will return better fitted for the work that lies ahead. May we suggest that useful "missionary work" on behalf of the Association might be accomplished, and provincial assistants considerably encouraged, if members would "look-up" the library of the town which they are visiting. The next issue of this journal will appear on 1st September.

Our New Officers.—We offer a very cordial welcome to our new officers, Messrs. Cashmore, Stewart and Jones. The President, Mr. H. M. Cashmore, is the deputy chief librarian of Birmingham, and as such he occupies one of the most important positions in the profession beneath that of chief librarian. He had a distinguished army career, and it may be within the recollection of our readers that he was specially commended for his services. His work in connection with the Catalogue of the

Birmingham Collection will be long remembered, and will mark him out as a bibliographer of the first order. He is President of the Birmingham and District Library Association, and members of our Easter Schools will recall with pleasure his genial manner and charming personality.

Mr. James D. Stewart, the Vice-President, is of the Islington Public Libraries. He is the author or joint-author of several important text-books, and has contributed largely to the professional press. His greatest bibliographical work, however, is as the editor of that important volume "The English Catalogue of Books." He is a man of considerable business ability and personality, and will be a valuable asset to the Association in the year that lies ahead.

Mr. Gurner P. Jones, is a B.A. of London University, a qualification which of itself excellently fits him for the secretarial office, in view of the new circumstances in which we find ourselves. He is of the Stepney Public Libraries, possesses boundless enthusiasm for the profession, and has already had valuable secretarial experience in connection with several important societies. In fact, we have a strong suspicion that Mr. Jones has relinquished one of these positions in order to serve the L.A.A.

To all of these gentlemen we offer a warm welcome, and an assurance of our loyal support.

Two Generous Gifts.—In our report of the Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, reference is made to Mr. F. W. T. Lange's generous gift of £20 a year for the purchase of books for the Association's Library. Mr. Lange has already placed the Association under a considerable debt of gratitude by the gift of his extensive library of professional literature, and this fresh token of his interest is exceedingly gratifying, and will, we are sure, be very much appreciated.

Mr. W. J. Bennett, the chief librarian of Tottenham, has also shown his interest in the Association by undertaking to subscribe £1 a month for twelve months to the funds of the Association, with the promise of further help at the end of the time if it is needed.

We feel sure that our readers will join heartily with us in offering to these gentlemen our very sincere thanks for these practical and acceptable tokens of their sympathy and support. The L.A.A. has always been fortunate in its friends, and it is encouraging to receive from time to time such testimony to the value of the Association's work.

At the last meeting of the Council, it was resolved to give expression to our thanks by conferring on these gentlemen the Honorary Fellowship of the Association.

Our Supplement.—It is due to the further generosity of Mr. W. J. Bennett that we are able to circulate Mr. Lewis' encouraging address at the Annual Meeting with the present issue of *The Library Assistant*, Mr. Bennett having kindly defrayed the entire cost of printing the address. On behalf of the Association we tender to Mr. Bennett our best thanks for his much valued gift.

The Summer Schools.—The circular concerning the School of Librarianship's Summer School is circulated at the request of the Director of the School of Librarianship. We also understand that the Aberystwyth Summer School, which has been so successful for several years, will be held this year from the 26th July to the 7th of August. It is hoped that a considerable number of our members will avail themselves of the facilities offered by one or other of the Schools.

Library Association Council Election, 1920.—Members of the L.A.A. who are also Members of the Library Association are urged to vote without fail for the following candidates. Great success attended the efforts of the L.A.A. in this direction last year; that success can be improved upon if members will not neglect the opportunity, and will act as suggested above.

For the London Council :

J. Frederick Hogg, Battersea Public Libraries; Hon.
Treasurer of the L.A.A.
Gurner P. Jones, B.A., Stepney Public Libraries; Hon.
Secretary of the L.A.A.
Harry Rowlatt, Poplar Public Libraries.
Wm. Benson Thorne, Poplar Public Libraries.

For the Country Council :

Mispah Gilbert, Chiswick.
George R. Bolton, Watford.
George E. Roebuck, Walthamstow.
W. C. Berwick Sayers, Croydon.
H. Tapley-Soper, Exeter.
George A. Stephen, Norwich.
Harry G. Sureties, Hornsey.
John Warner, Newport (Mon.).
William Wilson, Wallasey.

L.A.A. Scale of Salaries.—Librarians and others desirous of obtaining further copies of the Scale of Salaries recommended by the Library Assistants' Association are notified that they may be had from Mr. Thorne at One Shilling a dozen, post free.

Meeting at St. Albans.—Through the kind offices of Mr. Green, librarian of St. Albans, it is hoped to arrange an excursion and meeting in that historic city for Wednesday, 15th September. Full particulars will appear in our next issue.

Mr. Lewis' Address.—There is a limited number of copies of Mr. Lewis' Address for sale separately. They may be obtained from the Hon. Editor, at Threepence a copy, post free.

Vacancies.—We understand that the Hackney Borough Council will shortly advertise for two Senior Male Assistants in their Public Libraries, at a commencing salary of £220 each, rising to £300 per annum; also for four Junior Female Assistants, at a commencing salary of £80 each, rising to £130 per annum. Applications must be made on printed forms not later than 5 p.m. on the 16th inst.

Birmingham War Memorial.—A Memorial to those members of the Libraries staff who gave their lives during the great war, has been placed in the entrance hall of the Central Libraries. The Memorial is in Hopton Wood stone, surmounted by a bronze wreath and bears the following inscription:—

"In Memory of Henry Wilfred Checketts, Percy Garner, Frank Thomas Izard, Thomas Riley, all of the 14th Battalion, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Killed in action. William Howard Reeves of the Army Service Corps. Members of the staff of the Birmingham Public Libraries who gave their lives for their country in the European War of 1914-1919."

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association was held in happy circumstances on Wednesday and Thursday, 9th and 10th June, at University College (London), and at the Guildhall.

There was a large attendance of members from London and district, and the provinces were represented by Mr. Cashmore (Birmingham), Miss Gerard (Worthing), Messrs. Lowe (Hove), Parsons (Bradford), Procter (Leeds), and Webb (Brighton).

At the afternoon session, held at University College, on Wednesday, the Chair was occupied by Dr. E. A. Baker, M.A., Director of the School of Librarianship. In the unavoidable absence of the Provost (Sir Gregory Foster), Dr. Baker welcomed the Association to the College, and referred briefly to the work that was being carried on there by the School of Librarianship, and to the bright future that seemed to lie ahead of librarianship.

Having been introduced by the Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Herbert Lewis, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education, who was received with much applause, delivered the address which is issued as a supplement to the present number of *The Library Assistant*. A vote of thanks was moved by the retiring President (Mr. R. F. Bullen), and seconded by the President elect (Mr. H. M. Cashmore), supported by Messrs. Headicar, Bolton, Jenn, and others. All the speakers expressed our cordial thanks to Mr. Lewis for his stimulating and suggestive address, and especially for the important part that he had played in securing the passage of the Libraries Act of 1919.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Baker for presiding, and to the authorities of University College for permission to meet there was moved by Mr. Thorne, and seconded by Mr. Procter. This concluded the afternoon session, after which we were entertained to tea, kindly provided by the Provost, Dr. Chambers (the librarian), and Dr. Baker, and at which Mr. Lewis honoured us with his presence.

The Business Meeting was held in the Mocatta Library, Mr. R. F. Bullen being in the Chair. The Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting were read and confirmed. The adoption of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Report, as printed in the June number of *The Library Assistant*, was moved by Mr. Bullen, and seconded by the retiring secretary, Mr. W. B. Thorne. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Thorne announced that subject to certain minor formalities, the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians had decided to amalgamate with the Library Assistants' Association, thus making the North Western Branch one of the strongest in the country.

He also announced that the Association had become further indebted to Mr. F. W. T. Lange as a consequence of his offer to contribute to the Association's Library the sum of twenty pounds a year for the purchase of professional literature.

Referring to the Professional Roll of Honour, Mr. Thorne urged those who had not already done so, to send to the Honorary Editor full particulars of their service, and especially of those who had fallen, in order that some attempt might be made to complete the Roll.

The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. J. F. Hogg), moved on behalf of the Council that as from October next, the subscriptions to the Association shall be as follows:—Fellows, twelve shillings; Members, eight shillings; Associates (assistants of 18 and under), four shillings. In introducing his motion, Mr. Hogg outlined briefly the state of the Association's finances now as compared with those of its early days. He pleaded especially for the proposed subscription on account of the greatly increased cost of producing *The Library Assistant*, and the consequent reduction in its size. He also intimated that Mr. W. J. Bennett (librarian of Tottenham), had generously offered the Association one pound a month for twelve months, with the promise of further help at the end of that time should the Association still require it.

The motion was seconded by Mr. H. G. Sureties.

On behalf of the Yorkshire Branch, Mr. Parsons moved an amendment to the effect that in the opinion of the Branch the parent Association should postpone for one year any action in the way of increasing the subscription, in view of the probable enlarged income consequent upon the increase of salaries received by members and associates, the automatic increase in the number of members' subscriptions, and a relative decrease in the number of associates' subscriptions.

Mr. Parsons urged that in view of these facts the increase was unwarranted, at all events until a full post-war year has been passed. He also pointed out that the Branches were particularly hard hit by the new proposal in consequence of the considerable expense incurred by many of the members in attending professional meetings.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Procter, but on being put to the meeting was declared lost. The original motion was thereupon put and carried by a large majority.

As a consequence, it was unanimously resolved that the subscription to *The Library Assistant* be increased to eight shillings per annum.

Mr. Cooper (Battersea), moved and Mr. Vale (Bethnal Green), seconded the establishment of a Benevolent Fund to be applied to such cases of distress as the Council might from time to time determine. The following Rules were submitted to the meeting and adopted.

- 1.—The Fund shall be called "The Library Assistants' Association Benevolent Fund."
- 2.—The Fund shall be managed by a committee comprising the President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary of the Association, and four members.
- 3.—The Fund shall be used for relief in urgent cases of need arising from sickness or death.
- 4.—Assistants must have been in membership of the Association for at least two years, and not in arrears with their subscriptions, to be eligible for assistance from the Fund.
- 5.—No Member may receive assistance more than once in twelve months.

Mr. G. P. Jones, B.A. (Stepney), moved, Mr. G. R. Bolton (Watford), seconded, and it was resolved that as from 1921, the financial year of the Association should be made uniform throughout the Branches. By this means it is hoped to facilitate the work of the Honorary Treasurer, and to be generally to the advantage of the Association.

Mr. C. H. Clinch (Ealing), moved that the title of the Association be changed from The Library Assistants' Association to The International Association of Librarians. To secure a discussion, the motion was seconded by Mr. Bolton. Mr. Walker (Tottenham), moved, and Mr. Luke (Plumstead), seconded an amendment that the word "Assistant" be inserted before the word Librarians.

There was a good discussion, in the course of which it was pointed out that the Association had to a large extent outgrown its original scope, and that in some quarters a certain stigma appeared to be attached to the phrase "Library Assistants." Upon being put to the vote, both the amendment and the original motion were declared lost.

The Honorary Secretary announced the result of the election of Officers and Council, as follows, and the new Officers were introduced to the meeting amid applause. A vote of thanks to the scrutineers, Messrs. Crook, Kearsley, Wilson, and Spinks was unanimously adopted.

BALLOT RESULT.

President: MR. H. M. CASHMORE, Birmingham.

Vice-President: MR. J. D. STEWART, Islington.

Hon. Treasurer: MR. J. FREDERICK HOGG, Battersea.

Hon. Secretary: MR. GURNER P. JONES, B.A., Stepney.

LONDON MEMBERS:

THORNE, W. B., Poplar	...	...	170
REES, MISS G., University College	...	...	129
BULLEN, R. F., Poplar	...	...	128
LUKE, E., Woolwich	...	...	114
PARKER, W. H., Hackney	...	...	110
CUMMINS, A. E., Chemical Society	...	...	105
COOPER, R., Battersea	...	...	100
VALE, G. F., Bethnal Green	...	...	90
BRIDGE, W. R., Battersea	...	...	77
ROBINSON, S. C., Greenwich	...	...	72

Not Elected :

JENN, A. H., Lambeth	57
RICHARDS, F. A., Bethnal Green	51

NON-LONDON MEMBERS.

SHARP, H. A., Croydon	135
SURETIES, H. G., Hornsey	130
GERARD, MISS E., Worthing	124
STROTHER, G. W., Leeds... ..	108
WEBB, A., Brighton	108
PEPPER, F. W. C., Birmingham	105
WALKER, J. E., Tottenham	104
PARSONS, R. W., Bradford	88
MORGAN, W., Cardiff	82
WILLIAMS, R. G., Bolton	81

Not Elected :

CLINCH, C. H., Ealing	73
SANDRY, F. E., Croydon	59
SUNLEY, W. H., Leyton	54
HAMER, H., Bolton	50

Mr. H. M. Cashmore, Deputy-Chief Librarian of Birmingham, having taken the Presidential Chair, expressed his thanks for the great honour that had been shown to him, and to the Midland Branch, which he represented. He also moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Officers and Council. Mr. J. D. Stewart, of Islington, the new Vice-President, seconded the motion, and availed himself of the opportunity of thanking the Association for the honour it had conferred upon him. The new Honorary Secretary (Mr. G. P. Jones, B.A.) replying on behalf of the Council, appealed for the loyal support of the members in his important position, and promised to follow as closely as he could in the traditions which had become associated with the office.

The President (Mr. Cashmore) then rose to present to Mr. Thorne, on behalf of the ex-service members of the Association, a selection of "Community Plate" and a gold-mounted fountain pen as a token of their appreciation of his work in keeping the Association alive during the critical days of the war. Mr. Bullen joined with Mr. Cashmore in expressing the members' appreciation of his services, and their gratitude for all that the Association had done for them during their absence.

On behalf of the Association in general, Mr. Thorne was asked to accept a case of Treasury notes as a small token of thanks for his excellent services during the five years that he had occupied the secretarial office.

Mr. Thorne replied, thanking those concerned not only for the visible objects, but also for the kind spirit that had prompted the gifts, and for the words that had accompanied them. Mr. Thorne acknowledged the support that he had received from the other officers of the Association, from the women members of the Council, and from his wife.

The remainder of the evening was to have been devoted to a social programme, but owing to the time occupied by the business meeting this had to be more or less abandoned. Nevertheless, we were indebted to Miss Baker for a pianoforte solo and song, to Mr. Parsons for a Yorkshire story, and to Miss Sureties and other friends who were prepared to contribute to the programme.

On Thursday afternoon a good number of members gathered at the Guildhall, where we were received by the City Librarian, Mr. Bernard Kettle, and conducted round the building. Previous to this, the party had an opportunity of examining a choice collection of prints and books, and of listening to an extremely interesting informal talk by Mr. Kettle on the methods, scope, and special features of the collection. In the strong room we were permitted to examine a few of the library's choicest treasures. Visits to the museum, the Council chamber, the famous hall, and other rooms followed. The party voiced its appreciation of Mr. Kettle's kindness through Mr. Cashmore, the President of the Association. A most enjoyable and profitable afternoon was spent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

Dear Mr. Editor,

Will you kindly permit me through your pages to offer a word of sincere thanks to all those friends who contributed so liberally to the generous presentation of "Community" plate and fountain pen from the ex-Service men, and Treasury Notes from the general members, made to me at the Annual Meeting.

I feel that the few halting remarks I was able to make at the time are a poor return for the tributes paid to the humble services rendered to the Association during my term of office; moreover, I should like to reach those who were not present at the Meeting. For over twenty years the Association has been an unfailing centre of interest for me; it has provided me with a number of valued friends and a wide circle of pleasant acquaintances: therefore I have always counted it a privilege to do something in return. There seems to be an idea abroad that the Association's continued existence during the trying days of the War is due to my efforts, but that is wholly erroneous, for without the loyal support of a devoted band of enthusiasts I could have achieved nothing, and so it appears to me that the credit belongs in greater measure to those who most unselfishly gave of their ability and leisure to keep things going. At the same time, however, these tokens, together with the expressions of warm regard which accompanied them, are an immense gratification to me, and to all who made them possible I tender my most heartfelt thanks.

Yours very faithfully,

W. B. THORNE.

APPOINTMENTS.

† MISS M. GILBERT, librarian, Liverpool Lyceum, to be librarian, Chiswick.

Other selected candidates: Messrs. *Jones, B.A. (Stepney), Ormerod (Kingston), *Owen (Leamington), *Sureties (Hornsey), and *Walker (Tottenham).

H. J. WILSON, Edinburgh, to be senior assistant, Tottenham.

† Fellow, L.A.A. * Member, L.A.A.

MR. AND MRS. G. R. BOLTON.—We offer the Association's congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Bolton upon the occasion of the birth of a son, on 5th June last.

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